

I wish these anecdotes were isolated incidents, but unfortunately they are just the tip of the iceberg.

In fiscal year 2001 alone, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service responded to 66,000 mail fraud complaints, arrested 1,691 mail fraud offenders, convicted 1,477 of such offenders, and initiated 642 civil or administrative actions, recovering over \$1.2 billion in court ordered restitution payments. If these figures weren't distressing enough, the number of complaints is on the rise. The Postal Inspection Service has already responded to 68,000 mail fraud complaints this year to date—pointing to a possible 27 percent increase in complaints by the end of this fiscal year.

According to AARP:

"Older Americans are the targets of a new kind of criminal. This criminal holds you up in your own home, but not with a gun. This criminal's weapon of choice is the telephone.

"There may be more than 10,000 fraudulent telemarketing operations calling hundreds of thousands of American consumers every day. Older Americans are a prime target of these crooks . . .

" . . . 56 percent of the names on 'mooch lists' (what fraudulent telemarketers call their lists of most likely victims) were aged 50 or older.

"Many of the older people preyed upon by dishonest telemarketing companies are well-educated, with above-average incomes, and they are socially active in their communities."

Therefore, the sales pitches these companies use are appropriately sophisticated. They include: "phony prizes, illegal sweepstakes, sham investments, crooked charities, and 'recovery rooms' where victims are scammed again by the telemarketers with promises that, for a fee, they will help them recover the money they have lost."

The National Consumers League, the oldest nonprofit consumer organization in the United States, reports that: "It's estimated that there are 14,000 illegal telemarketing operations bilking U.S. citizens of at least \$40 billion dollars annually." They believe that "[t]he first step in helping older people who may be targets of fraud is to convince them that the person on the other end of the line could be a crook!"

In order to "to express the support of the House for programs and activities to prevent perpetrators of fraud from victimizing senior citizens," and "to educate and inform the public, senior citizens, their families, and their caregivers about fraud perpetrated through mail, telemarketing, and the Internet," please join Representative JOHN MCHUGH, and me in passing House Resolution 443.

Our colleagues in the Senate have passed a resolution designating the week beginning August 25, 2002 as "National Fraud Against Senior Citizens Week." We will be able to collaborate with them, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and numerous advocacy groups in raising public awareness about this epidemic of fraud and deception against senior citizens and hopefully prevent future incidents of fraud.

2002 WORLD BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House that the United States will be playing host to the World Basketball Championship for the first time in the event's 50 year history. For 11 days from August 29 to September 8, 2002, 16 teams from all over the world will compete for the title of World Basketball Champions, and appropriately they will be competing for that title in what is known as the basketball capitol of the world, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Long before basketball was a world game, it was an Indiana game, in fact it was THE Indiana game. There is no place in the world that follows basketball with more passion, devotion, support, and adoration than in Indiana. The term for this basketball craze is fondly called "Hoosier Hysteria." A hysteria that allows Indiana to have over 30 high school gymnasiums with seating capacity over 5,000, including one arena that seats 5,600 people, not too surprising until you find out that the town's population is only 5,000.

Indianapolis is also no stranger to major international sporting events. It is preparing for what is expected to be about 150,000 to 175,000 visiting basketball fans.

Indianapolis not only hosts the three largest single day sporting events in the world in it's three races, but it has also hosted 4 NCAA Men's Final Fours, 14 United States Olympic Team Trials, the 2001 World Police and Fire games, and is slated to host many events in the near future.

Indianapolis hopes that its Hoosier Hysteria will shine through and take on a new international light to warmly welcome the many international visitors. It is in this spirit of support and international goodwill that the entire Indiana Delegation is introducing House Concurrent Resolution 443, a resolution supporting the 2002 World Basketball Championships and welcoming the visiting teams from Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Lebanon, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, Russia, Spain, Turkey, Venezuela, and Yugoslavia.

International sporting events such as the 2002 World Basketball Championship play an important role in continuing to foster positive international relationships between participating teams and fans. This event provides an opportunity for not only residents of Indiana, but for all Americans to unite behind their national team and also welcome the players and fans from all the visiting teams. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask that Congress join me in supporting the 2002 World Basketball Championship for Men welcoming the 16 international teams to the United States by supporting this resolution.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 3612, THE MEDICAID COMMUNITY ATTENDANT SERVICES AND SUPPORTS ACT (MICASSA) ON THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 12th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and to request support for H.R. 3612, the Medicaid Community-Based Attendant Services and Supports Act, also known as MICASSA. It is fitting that we give special attention to the merits of this important bill as we recognize the twelfth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. On July 26, 1990 President George Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law. This landmark civil rights legislation ushered in a new era of promise for a segment of our population whose talents and rights as American citizens have been too long ignored. It established a new social compact that seeks to end the paternalistic patterns of the past that take away our rights if we become disabled. It says that people with disabilities have the right to be active participants integrated into the everyday life of society.

Much like the promise of the 1965 Civil Rights Act, however, the promise cannot become a reality until we roll up our sleeves and do the work necessary to eliminate the barriers, which still hinder its full implementation. While some recent decisions of the Supreme Court have threatened the scope of the ADA, I would like to call our attention to a Supreme Court ruling that reaffirms the fundamental principle that people with disabilities have the right to be active participants integrated into the everyday life of society. In 1999, the Court ruled in the Olmstead case that states violate the Americans with Disabilities Act when they unnecessarily put people with disabilities in institutions. The problem is that our Federal-State Medicaid Program has not been updated and has a built-in bias that results in the unnecessary isolation and segregation of many of our senior citizens and younger adults in institutions.

In the case of Medicaid beneficiaries who need long-term support services, the only option currently guaranteed by Federal law in every State is nursing home care. Too often decisions relating to the provision of long-term services and supports are influenced by what is reimbursable under Federal and State Medicaid policy rather than by what individuals need and deserve. Research has revealed a significant bias in the Medicaid program toward reimbursing services provided in institutions over services provided in home and community settings. Other options have existed for decades but their spread has been fiscally choked off by the fact that 75% of our long term care dollars go to institutional settings, in spite of the fact that studies show that many people do better in home and community settings.

Only 27 States have adopted the benefit option of providing personal care services under the Medicaid program. Although every State has chosen to provide certain services under home- and community-based waivers, these